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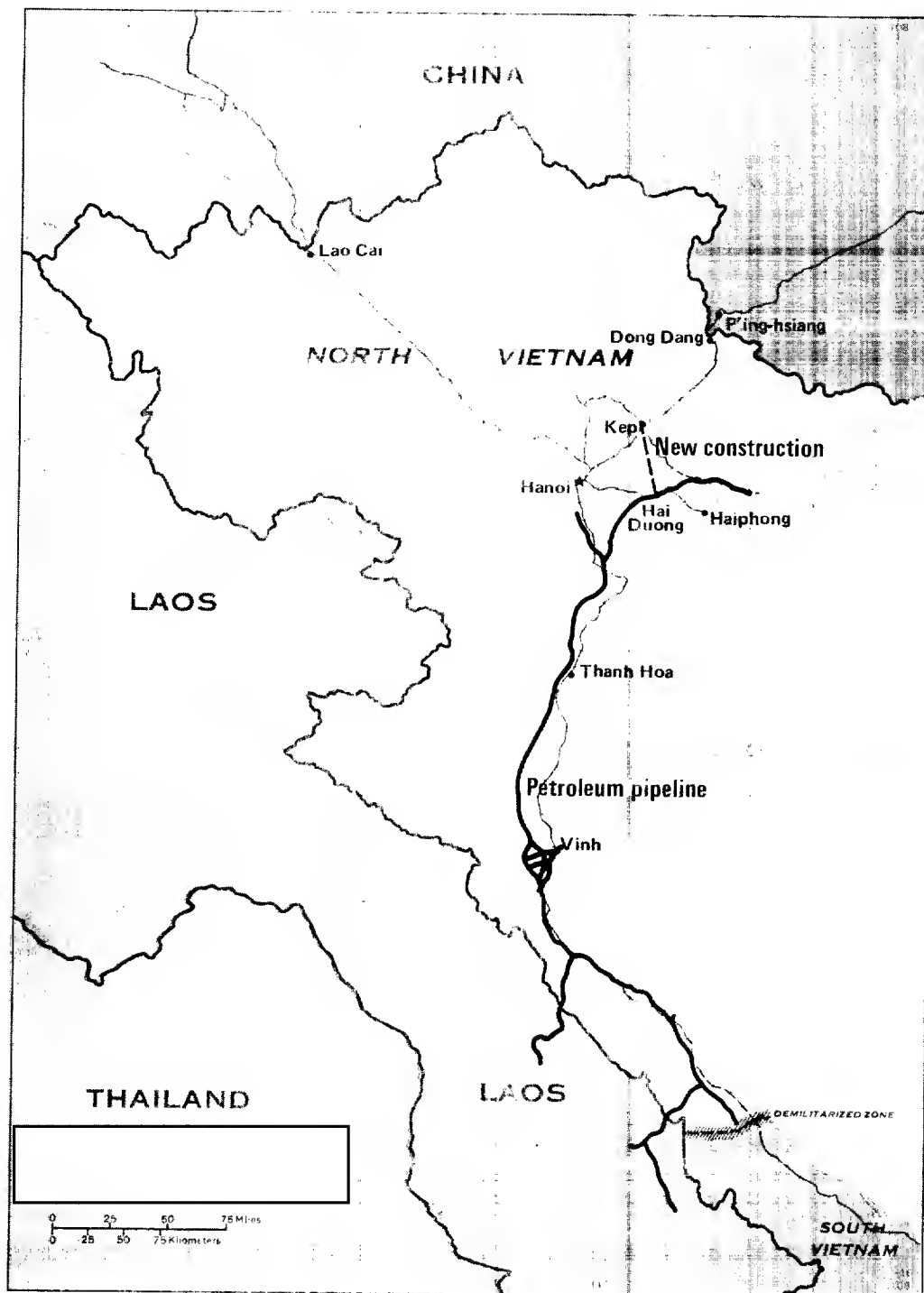
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VIETNAM: The general lull in battlefield activity continues, with bad weather apparently hampering enemy preparations in northern South Vietnam.

In Kontum City, South Vietnamese forces have cleared the remaining Communist troops from the area south of the airfield, and only minor skirmishing is reported north of the field, from which most of the enemy forces have been forced to withdraw. On the coast of Military Region 2, the fighting in and around Phu My District town in Binh Dinh Province has also decreased; government forces have cleared the town of almost all the Communist troops who had infiltrated during the weekend fighting.

* * * *

The North Vietnamese appear to be extending their petroleum pipeline system toward China. Readouts of photography on 23 and 31 May show that construction is under way to extend the pipeline about 30 miles north from the Hai Duong area, midway between Hanoi and Haiphong, to Kep. Kep lies on the Dong Dang railroad line about 50 miles from the Chinese border. A POL storage area is also under construction near Kep.

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CAMBODIA: The results of the presidential election seem to reflect widespread dissatisfaction with Lon Nol's leadership.

Complete returns are not yet in, but it now appears certain that Lon Nol's margin of victory will fall well short of the unequivocal vote of confidence he had hoped to obtain. At last report, Lon Nol had 54 percent of the vote, In Tam 26 percent, and Keo An 19 percent. The respectable showing of Keo An, a political nonentity who only attracted some attention by pledging to permit Sihanouk to return to Cambodia, will be particularly embarrassing to the government because it will be interpreted as evidence of residual support for the former Cambodian leader.

In Tam actually ran ahead of Lon Nol in politically important Phnom Penh, where he effectively exploited both war-weariness and unhappiness over inflation and high-level corruption. Only energetic electioneering by the military enabled Lon Nol to get the national majority that was necessary to avoid a runoff. In addition to campaigning for Lon Nol and threatening the opposition with a coup if Lon Nol was turned out of office, military leaders appear to have delivered the votes of armed forces personnel and their families.

The government evidently also curtailed the anti - Lon Nol vote with some dubious practices, perhaps including the removal of In Tam supporters from the lists of qualified voters. This may help to explain why the total vote was considerably below that cast in the constitutional referendum last April. Although In Tam is claiming fraud, the election was reasonably honest by Khmer standards, and the closeness of the vote should help the government to portray the contest as a legitimate expression of the voters' will.

Lon Nol's next important political step will be to appoint a vice-president. He has not yet given

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any hints of his choice for that position or when the appointment will be made. Sirik Matak repeatedly has insisted that he does not want the job. In Tam clearly is unacceptable to the military establishment, and he may be setting his political sights on again becoming president of the National Assembly after the elections for that body are held later this summer.

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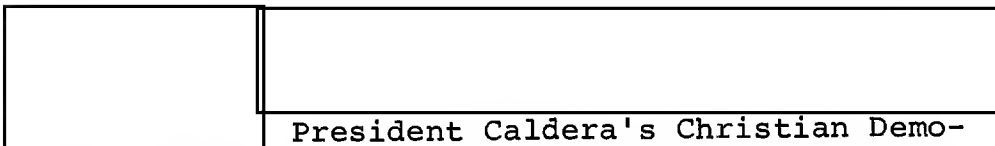
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VENEZUELA: The wave of violence that began a few weeks ago is continuing, to the embarrassment of the Caldera government.

A spate of terrorist attacks in various parts of the country, including the heavily publicized kidnaping of a wealthy industrialist over the weekend, will increase pressure on the government to give an official version of the question of Cuban connection with the violence. Such involvement was reported by the Venezuelan security services early this year. At that time they informed the government that interrogation of captured guerrillas had disclosed that Cuba had trained a group to set up a revolutionary organization in Venezuela and had promised money, arms, and unlimited assistance once the group had proved itself. The minister of defense recently leaked this information to the press.



President Caldera's Christian Democratic Party evidently is concerned that revelations of Cuba's role would be politically damaging in view of the party's efforts to decrease the animosity stemming from earlier Cuban sponsorship of insurgency in Venezuela that caused Cuba's ouster from the OAS. With the story in the open, the government may decide to blame Cuba for the current terrorism, which belies claims that the pacification program has been a complete success.



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EQUATORIAL GUINEA: President Macias reportedly again is in a state of high dudgeon over rumors of coup plotting.

In late May, Macias apparently became convinced that a coup attempt was under way and he ordered the execution of some 33 political prisoners in the mainland town of Bata. Macias himself is in seclusion at the country's island capital, Santa Isabel.

Although Macias' current fears may be overdrawn, students and others in Bata reportedly demonstrated against Macias earlier this year. Conditions on the mainland seem as grim as ever, and recent visitors report the regime persists in its harsh attempts to run a tightly controlled society without regard for the welfare of individual citizens.

Meanwhile, the government's problems on the island are growing. Contract agricultural workers from Nigeria reportedly have not been paid, and they want to return home. The Guineans are reluctant to let them go, because no new workers have been recruited, despite a new labor treaty with Nigeria.

Several hundred Nigerians reportedly have demonstrated at the Nigerian Embassy in Santa Isabel, and believe their ambassador has gone home to arrange for transportation for the workers. The Guineans seem determined to prevent many of them from leaving, however. If the impasse is not quickly resolved, it could erupt into serious violence throughout the island.

In the past, Macias has reacted to trouble on the island by retiring to Bata, where most of his political support is based. This time there seems to be some chance that difficulties will occur simultaneously in both places, leaving the erratic president with no place to hide from the problems that are nearly all his own making.



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NOTE

BANGLADESH: A speech tomorrow by Prime Minister Mujib is being billed in Dacca as a major policy address. Mujib may be planning to emphasize law and order; he has recently been critical of "conspirators" who, he claims, have been causing unrest in parts of the country. Mujib still enjoys wide personal popularity, but he is sensitive to a recent rise in public criticism of his Awami League Party and reports of increased disturbances in some areas. Food shortages and allegations of widespread official corruption apparently have been the chief reasons for the trouble.

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